

County adequate opportunities to participate in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

3. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to afford the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to participate in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.
4. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to afford the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to participate in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities.
5. To provide sufficient surface water-access areas to afford the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to participate in extensive water-based outdoor recreation activities consistent with safe and enjoyable inland lake and river use and the maintenance of good water quality.
6. To preserve sufficient lands in essentially natural, open uses to assure the protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base, including surface-water and groundwater resources, and the enhancement of the social and economic well-being and environmental quality of the County.
7. To provide for the efficient and economical satisfaction of outdoor recreation and related open space needs, meeting all other objectives at the lowest possible cost.

Complementing each of the foregoing objectives is a planning principle and a set of planning standards. Each of these objectives, together with its supporting principle and standard, is set forth on Table G-2 in Appendix G. Each set of standards serves to facilitate the quantitative application of the objective in plan design and evaluation.

It should be noted that, while the attainment of all objectives is considered desirable to provide the residents of the County with needed opportunities for high-quality recreational experiences, the responsibility for providing the necessary parks, open space lands, and associated recreational facilities is shared among the various levels, units, and agencies of government. Under the adopted regional park and open space plan and the new County plan presented herein, the responsibility for the provi-

sion of large resource-oriented parks, resource-oriented recreational facilities, and recreation trails is delegated to the State and County levels of government, while the responsibility for the provision of smaller community and neighborhood parks and associated intensive nonresource-oriented recreational facilities is delegated to local units of government. The protection of important natural resource features, including primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, is considered the responsibility of all levels of government.

PARK AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS

Outdoor Recreation Sites and Facilities

The park and open space objectives herein presented are concerned with the provision of adequate outdoor recreation sites and facilities to serve the resident population of the County. The accompanying standards, as set forth in Table G-2 in Appendix G of this report, specify the quantity and spatial distribution of such sites.

The need for outdoor recreation sites and facilities within the County is determined by applying the standards for the size, number, and spatial distribution of public parks set forth in Appendix G to the anticipated future resident population levels and distribution within the County and comparing the probable future demand for such sites and facilities, as indicated through application of the standards, to the existing supply of recreation sites and facilities.

Two types of standards, per capita and accessibility standards, are used to help estimate the number, size, and distribution of outdoor recreation sites needed to serve the anticipated future population of the County. The per capita standards are intended to help estimate the total number of acres of land needed to satisfy requirements for park and recreational land based on the anticipated future resident population of the County. The accessibility standards are intended to insure that public parks are spatially distributed in a manner that is convenient and efficient for the population they are intended to serve. It should be recognized that, in some situations, while per capita standards may be met, a need may still exist for additional sites or facilities because of the relative inaccessibility or distance of an existing facility to some residents of the County.

The existing and probable future population levels and distribution within the County are important

determinants of future outdoor recreation needs. As indicated in Chapter X of this report, the anticipated resident population under full development of the recommended County land use plan is 552,000 persons. The anticipated resident population level by the year 2010 is 384,800 persons.

In addition to information on the overall size of the anticipated future population of the County, information on future population distribution is important to a determination of existing and probable future outdoor recreation needs. The regional park and outdoor recreation standards call for a major park to be provided within four miles of residents of urban areas and within 10 miles of residents of rural areas.¹¹ The land use plan under buildout conditions, graphically summarized by Map 87 in Chapter X, and the areas assumed to be provided with centralized public sanitary sewer, graphically summarized by Map 89 in Chapter X, served as the basis for the identification of the location and extent of planned urban areas within the County.

Standards for Major Parks and Associated Facilities

Per capita and service area standards for major parks are set forth under Objective No. 1 in Table G- 2 in Appendix G. Application of the service area standards indicates that most areas of the County are within the recommended service area of a major park, with the exception of the Oconomowoc area.¹²

Application of the per capita standards for major park sites to the anticipated County population levels for both the year 2010 and under buildout conditions indicates that the County currently has

an adequate amount of major park land and sites to serve future County residents.¹³ This gross calculation, however, does not take into account that each site must contain sufficient developable land, that is, areas with suitable soils and slopes, to accommodate needed recreational facilities and activities and that much of the area within existing major parks consists of lands which should not be developed for intensive recreational use because of their natural resource characteristics. Thus, there may be a need for more park land than indicated by strict application of the standard in order to provide needed recreational facilities while protecting park lands with important natural resource value.

The standards in Objective No. 3¹⁴ set forth per capita and service area standards for the provision of such resource-oriented recreational facilities as camping, golfing, picnicking, downhill skiing, and beach swimming. The standards under Objective No. 3 were applied to the anticipated County population levels for both the year 2010 and under land use plan buildout conditions, with the following results:

Campsites: The analysis revealed there are an adequate number of campsites provided at existing County and State parks to fulfill the need for publicly owned campsites under the standard for both the anticipated 2010 and the buildout population. The number of privately owned sites, however,

¹¹The Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission has historically used a standard of providing a major park within five miles of each County resident.

¹²Application of the Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission standards, which call for a major park to be provided within five miles of each County resident, indicates a need for major park sites to serve both the Town of Oconomowoc and the western portion of the Town of Summit. It should be noted, however, that the western portion of the Town of Summit is largely wetlands and it is therefore unlikely to be developed for residential use.

¹³The calculation was based on the number and acreage of existing major Waukesha County-owned parks, Fox Bend Park, Fox River Park, Menomonee Park, Minooka Park, Monches Park, Mukwonago Park, Muskego Park, Naga-Waukee Park, Nashotah Park, Retzer Nature Center, Ryan Park, and Wanaki Golf Course; three major parks owned by the State of Wisconsin, the Ottawa Lake Recreation Area and the Pine Woods Family Campground in the Southern Unit of the Moraine State Forest, and the Lapham Peak Unit of the Moraine State Forest; and two major parks owned by local governments, the New Berlin Hills Golf Course, owned by the City of New Berlin, and Wirth Park, owned by the City of Brookfield.

¹⁴Standards set forth under Objective No. 2 relate to the provision of facilities for nonresource-oriented recreational facilities, which are the responsibility of city, village, and town governments. Such facilities are addressed later in this chapter.

is drastically lower than the number called for under the standard, with only one privately owned campground within the County open to the public. Accordingly, it may be necessary for the public sector to provide additional campsites to compensate for the lack of private campgrounds in the County.

Golf Courses: There are currently three publicly owned 18-hole, regulation golf courses within the County, two at County-owned sites, the Naga-Waukee Park Golf Course and Wanaki Golf Course, and one, the New Berlin Hills Golf Course, owned by the City of New Berlin. In addition, there are 17 privately owned 18-hole, regulation golf courses within the County; of these, 11 are open to the public and six are open to members only.

Application of the standard for golf courses indicates a need for a total of five publicly owned 18-hole, regulation golf courses in the County by the year 2010 and a total of six publicly owned courses to serve the anticipated buildout population. This indicates a need for two additional public courses by the year 2010 and one additional course, beyond the year 2010, to serve the buildout population. The need for privately owned courses to serve both the anticipated design year 2010 population and the buildout population, ten and fourteen courses, respectively, is met by the 17 private courses existing within the County in 1996, with an excess which would provide a margin of capacity in the event some of the existing private courses are converted to other uses during the plan design period.

Picnicking: Application of the standard for picnicking facilities indicated that the County is currently well served by existing picnic facilities; however, picnic facilities should be provided at new and developing park sites to ensure that County residents will continue to be well served under 2010 and buildout conditions.

Downhill Skiing: Application of the standard for downhill skiing indicates that the need for private downhill skiing facilities is filled at the one existing facility at Sunspree, formerly Olympia, resort. Application of the standard also indicates a need for a publicly owned downhill skiing facility within the County; however, no such facility currently exists within the County.

Swimming Beaches: Application of the standard for swimming beaches indicates that the current number and location of such beaches is adequate to

serve the anticipated year 2010 population; one additional public swimming beach will be needed to serve the anticipated buildout population.

Standards for Trail Facilities

Objective No. 4 sets forth recommended per capita and locational standards for trail activities, including bicycling, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. Table 153 indicates the number of miles of each type of trail called for under the standards to serve the anticipated year 2010 and buildout populations, as well as the number of miles of each type of trail currently provided within the County.

As shown in Table 153, on the basis of the existing standards, there is an adequate supply of hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling trails within the County to serve both the 2010 and buildout population. A need exists for additional bicycling trails to serve both the year 2010 and the buildout population.

Standards for Boat-Access Sites

Objective No. 5 calls for the provision of sufficient surface water-access sites to afford County residents adequate opportunities to participate in water-related outdoor recreation activities, including boating, canoeing, and fishing, consistent with safe and enjoyable inland lake and river use and the maintenance of good water quality. Table 152 lists the major lakes within the County and indicates those lakes to which public access is provided. Major lakes currently lacking such access in 1995 include: Big Muskego Lake, Crooked Lake, Hunters Lake, Lake Keesus, Lower Nashotah Lake, Moose Lake, North Lake, Spring Lake, Upper Nashotah Lake, and Waterville Pond. It should be noted that public access sites have been acquired, but not yet developed, on Big Muskego Lake, Hunters Lake, and Lake Keesus.

Standards for Open Space Preservation

Objective No. 6 calls for the preservation of sufficient high-quality open space lands for the protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base. The regional land use plan and the land use element of this County Development Plan recommend that areas containing important natural resources, particularly those within the primary environmental corridors, be preserved and protected in essentially natural, open uses through a combination of public land acquisition and land use regulation. The preservation of such lands is based

Table 153

**APPLICATION OF STANDARDS FOR TRAIL ACTIVITIES
TO ANTICIPATED FUTURE POPULATION IN WAUKESHA COUNTY**

Trail Activity	Existing Quantity of Facility (miles)	Recommended Standard (per 1,000 persons)	Planned 2010 Population ^a		Planned Buildout Population ^b	
			Requirement (miles)	Need (miles)	Requirement (miles)	Need (miles)
Bicycling	43 ^c	0.16	62	19	88	45
Hiking	127 ^d	0.16	62	--	88	--
Horseback Riding	29 ^e	0.05	19	--	28	--
Cross-Country Skiing	63 ^f	0.02	8	--	11	--
Snowmobiling	108	0.11	42	--	61	--

^aThe anticipated resident population in the year 2010 is 384,800 persons.

^bThe anticipated resident population under buildout conditions is 552,000 persons.

^cIncludes the Bugline, Glacial Drumlin, Lake Country, and New Berlin trails.

^dIncludes the Bugline, Glacial Drumlin, Ice Age, Lake Country, and New Berlin trails; looped trail systems in Menomonee, Minooka, Muskego, Naga-Wauke, and Nashotah County parks; and trail systems in the Lapham Peak and Southern Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

^eIncludes bridle trails in Menomonee, Minooka, Muskego, and Ryan County Parks; a 2.5-mile portion of the Bugline trail; and bridle trails in the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

^fIncludes groomed trails in Menomonee, Minooka, Muskego, Nashotah, and Retzer County Parks and in the Lapham Peak and Southern Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

Source: Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and SEWRPC.

upon the location and composition of existing natural resources, rather than the application of development standards. It is recommended that these lands be preserved in order to maintain a high level of environmental quality in, and protect the natural beauty of, the County, as well as to provide valuable recreation opportunities for residents.

RECOMMENDED PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

Recommended Open Space Preservation Element

The open space preservation element of the park and open space plan consists of three major components: preservation of primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, and parkways associated with the primary environmental corridors; preservation of natural areas and critical species habitat sites; and protection of open space lands located within the Department of Natural Resources project boundaries for the Lulu Lake Natural Area, the

Lapham Peak and Southern Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, and the Vernon Marsh Wildlife Area.

Recommended actions with respect to the preservation of open space lands are graphically summarized on Map 100. It is recommended that a total of 97,314 acres, or about 152 square miles, of open space lands be protected through a combination of public and public-interest ownership¹⁵ or through the application of protective zoning. These 97,314

¹⁵Public ownership includes lands owned by the Federal, State, County, or local unit of government; school districts; and lake or sanitary districts. Public-interest ownership includes lands owned by such nonprofit conservation organizations as The Nature Conservancy, Waukesha Land Conservancy, or the Izaak Walton League.